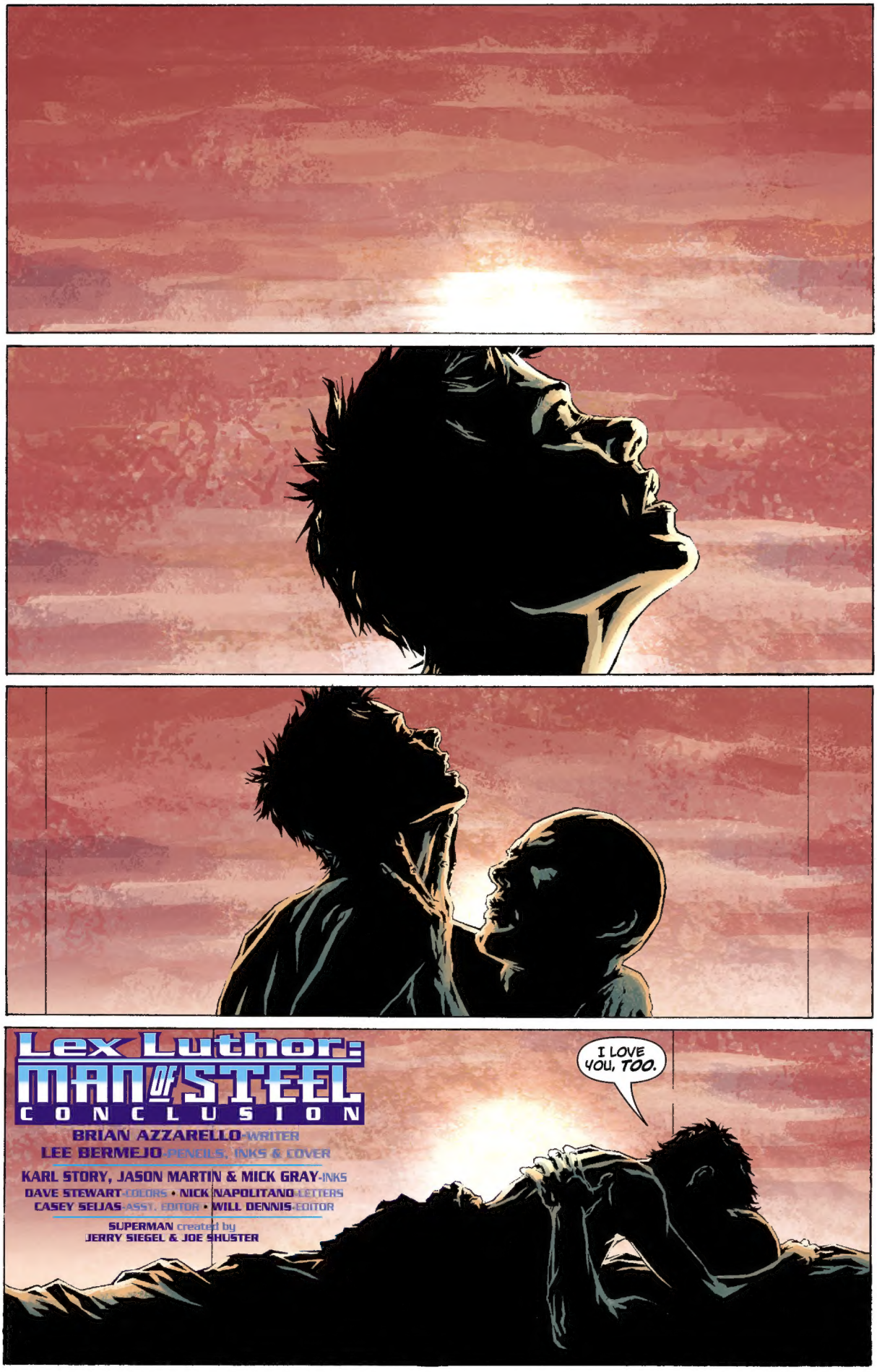
DC
LEX LUTHOR
MAN OF STEEL
NO. 5
OF 5
SEP 05
BRIAN AZZARELLO
LEE BERMEJO
MICK GRAY
dccomics.com


Lex Luthor:
MAN OF STEEL
CONCLUSION
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SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
I LOVE YOU, TOO.

THOSE WORDS, HOPE, MEAN THE WORLD TO ME...
THIS JUST IN...
WHAT'S BEING CALLED AN ANONYMOUS TIP CONCERNING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE MAN ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR A BRUTAL CRIME DIRECTED AGAINST NOT ONLY EVERY MAN AND WOMAN...
...BUT TRAGICALLY, CHILD, IN METROPOLIS HAS TURNED FATAL FOR SOME WHO HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT IT...
THIS IS LIVE FOOTAGE FROM A SOUTHSIDE METROPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD, WHERE IT IS BELIEVED THAT POLICE ATTEMPTED TO ARREST WINSLOW SCHOTT--THE TOYMAN--IN CONNECTION WITH TODAY'S GRISLY BOMBING OF A DOWNTOWN DAYCARE CENTER...
ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM EMS CREWS AT THE SITE, NONE OF THE OFFICERS SURVIVED.

LEX...
GO.
HOPE...
EVERY EYE IN METROPOLIS WANTS TO SEE YOU BRING THIS MONSTER TO JUSTICE...
ALL I ASK IS TO SEE YOU LATER. MEET ME ATOP THE SCIENCE SPIRE.
I FEEL HER SMILE IN MY CORE. HER RESPONSIBILITY BELONGS TO THIS CITY. BUT HER HEART...

IT'S ONE OF THOSE MOMENTS IN LIFE THAT I PRAY WILL BE UNFORGETTABLE.
KNOCK KNOCK
COME IN.
I HAD THE FEDEROVS' BODIES RELEASED FROM THE MORGUE AND TRANSFERRED--
OH.
HAND ME MY ROBE, WOULD YOU PLEASE, MONA?
SOMETHING WRONG?
I GAVE SASHA FEDEROV MY WORD THAT HIS FAMILY WOULD BE SAFE IN METROPOLIS.

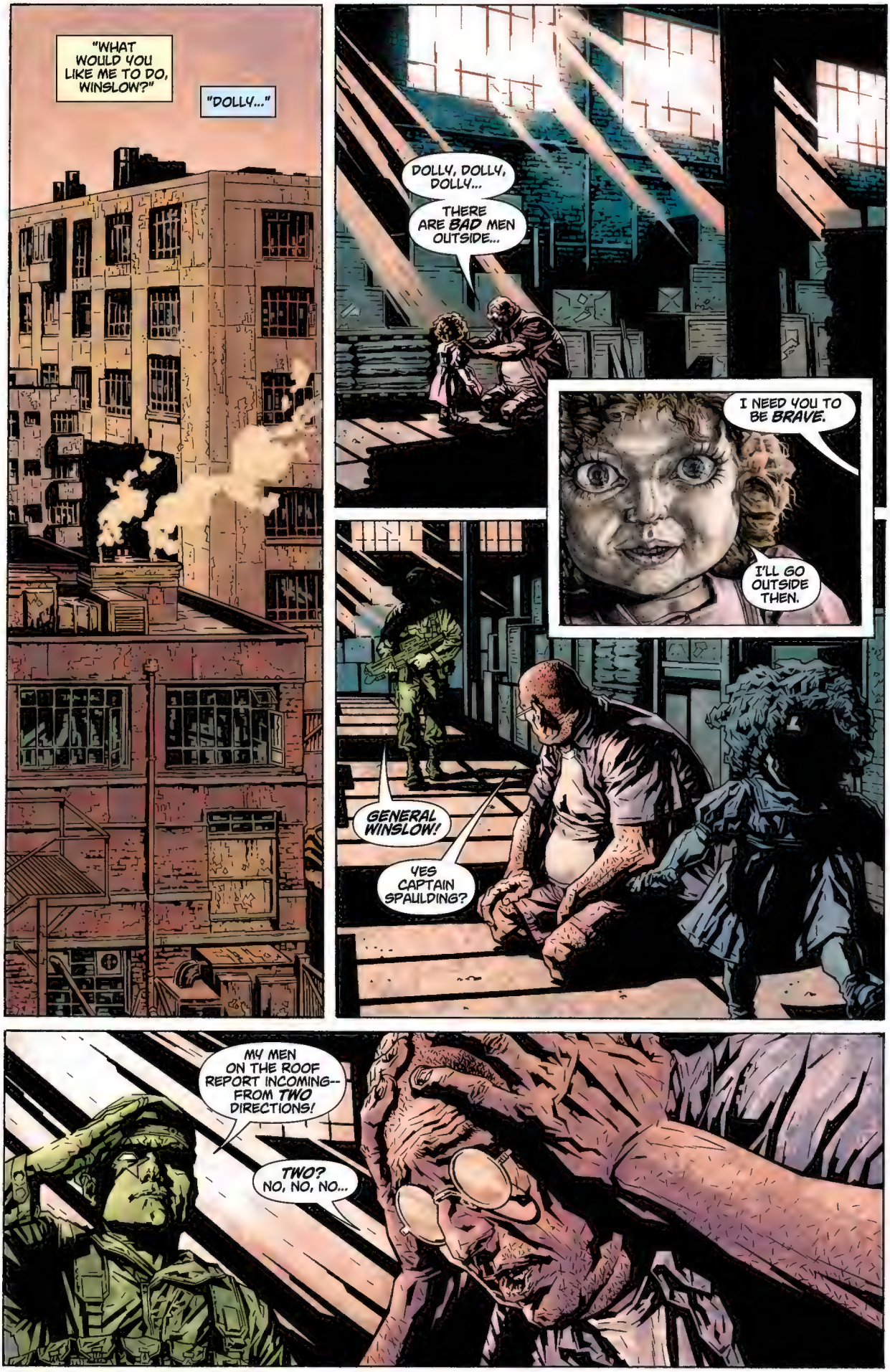
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?
JUST, UM...
...MY LETTER OF RESIGNATION.
SEE YOU IN THE MORNING, MONA.
GOODNIGHT, MR. LUTHOR.

MR. ORR?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
TO THANK YOU.
GO TO HELL...
I HAVE OTHER PLANS.
FROM DAY ONE, YOU PLAYED ME, LUTHOR.
I PAID YOU, ORR.
IF THE COST OF THE JOB WAS HIGHER THAN YOU ANTICIPATED, PERHAPS WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT. WHY DON'T YOU COME BY THE TOWER?
BELIEVE ME, I'D LOVE TO, BUT I'M IN NO SHAPE TO DRIVE...
REALLY? THEN I'LL SEND A CAR.
DON'T BOTHER.

IT'S ALREADY ON THE WAY.
LIKE A HOUSE OF CARDS....
DAMN IT...
WHAT'S REAL, CAN'T BE ARGUED WITH. THERE ARE CHEMICAL REASONS THAT HAPPEN ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL THAT MAKE GRASS APPEAR TO BE GREEN...
UNLESS ONE IS COLOR BLIND...
TAKING THAT INTO CONSIDERATION...
...ISN'T PERCEPTION MORE REAL THAN REALITY ITSELF?
HOTEL

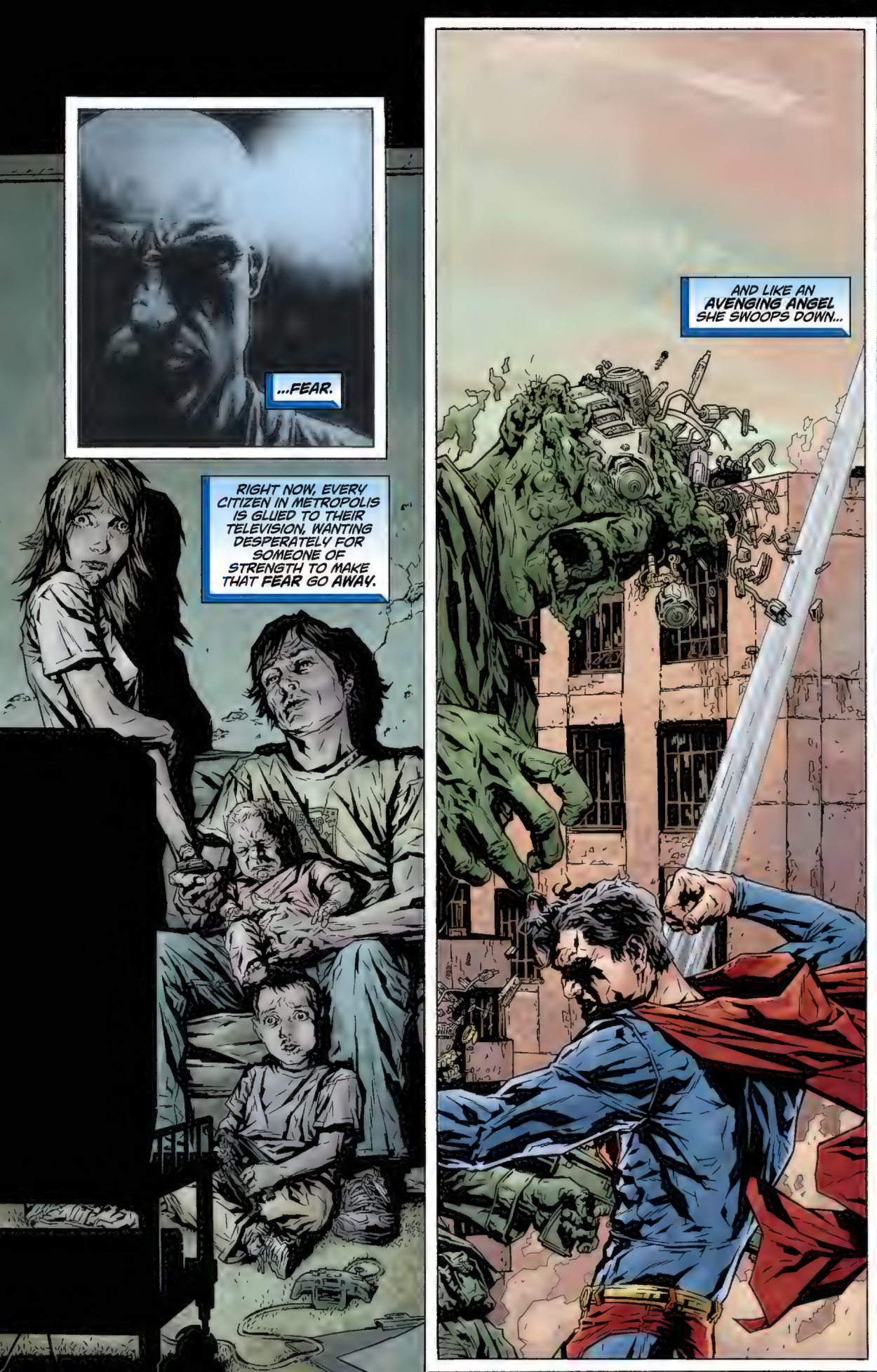
HOTEL
I CAN'T CHANGE THE COLOR OF GRASS...
...BUT CAN I CHANGE THE WAY IT'S PERCEIVED?

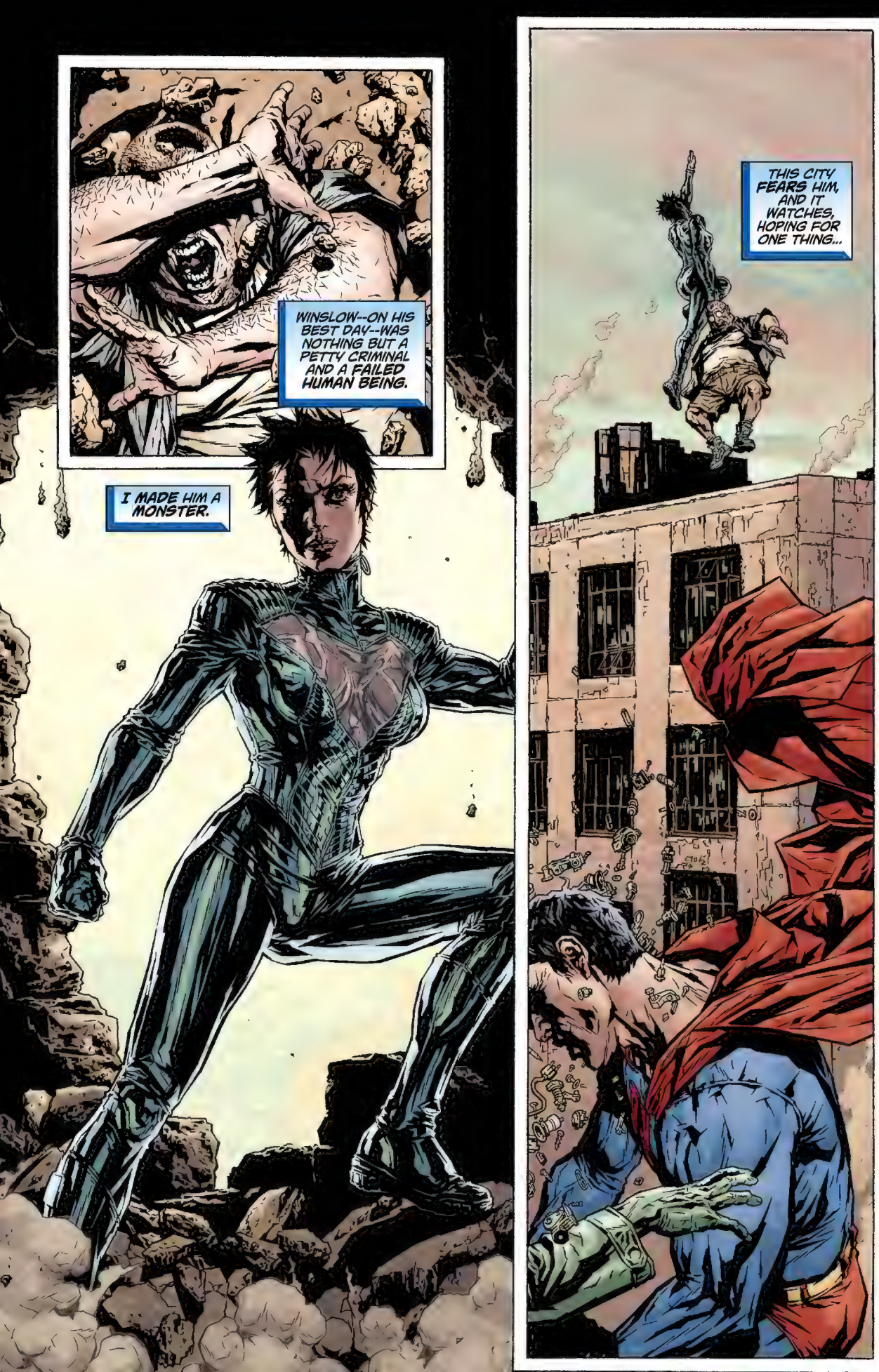
I BELIEVE I CAN.
WITH YOUR HELP...


"WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO, WINSLOW?"
"DOLLY..."
DOLLY, DOLLY, DOLLY...
THERE ARE BAD MEN OUTSIDE...
I NEED YOU TO BE BRAVE.
I'LL GO OUTSIDE THEN.
GENERAL WINSLOW!
YES CAPTAIN SPAULDING?
MY MEN ON THE ROOF REPORT INCOMING-- FROM TWO DIRECTIONS!
TWO? NO, NO, NO...

THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN. IT WAS JUST A ROBBERY...I LOVE CHILDREN.
WINSLOW...
THANK YOU, SPAULDING. I'M OKAY NOW.
TELL YOUR MEN, RED AND BLUE.
RED AND BLUE. THEY'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO...
THEY'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'LL DO...

...BECAUSE YOU'VE MADE IT CLEAR WHAT YOU WON'T.
AS HARD AS IT IS TO BELIEVE...
...YOUR ARROGANCE MAY ACTUALLY BE GREATER THAN YOUR ABILITIES.
YOU PROFESS A LOVE OF HUMANITY, BUT THAT IS AN EMOTION YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY KNOW...
...BECAUSE THOSE SAME ABILITIES MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO KNOW ITS OPPOSITE.
IT'S SOMETHING THAT TODAY HAS ITS GRIP ON EVERY HEART IN METROPOLIS...

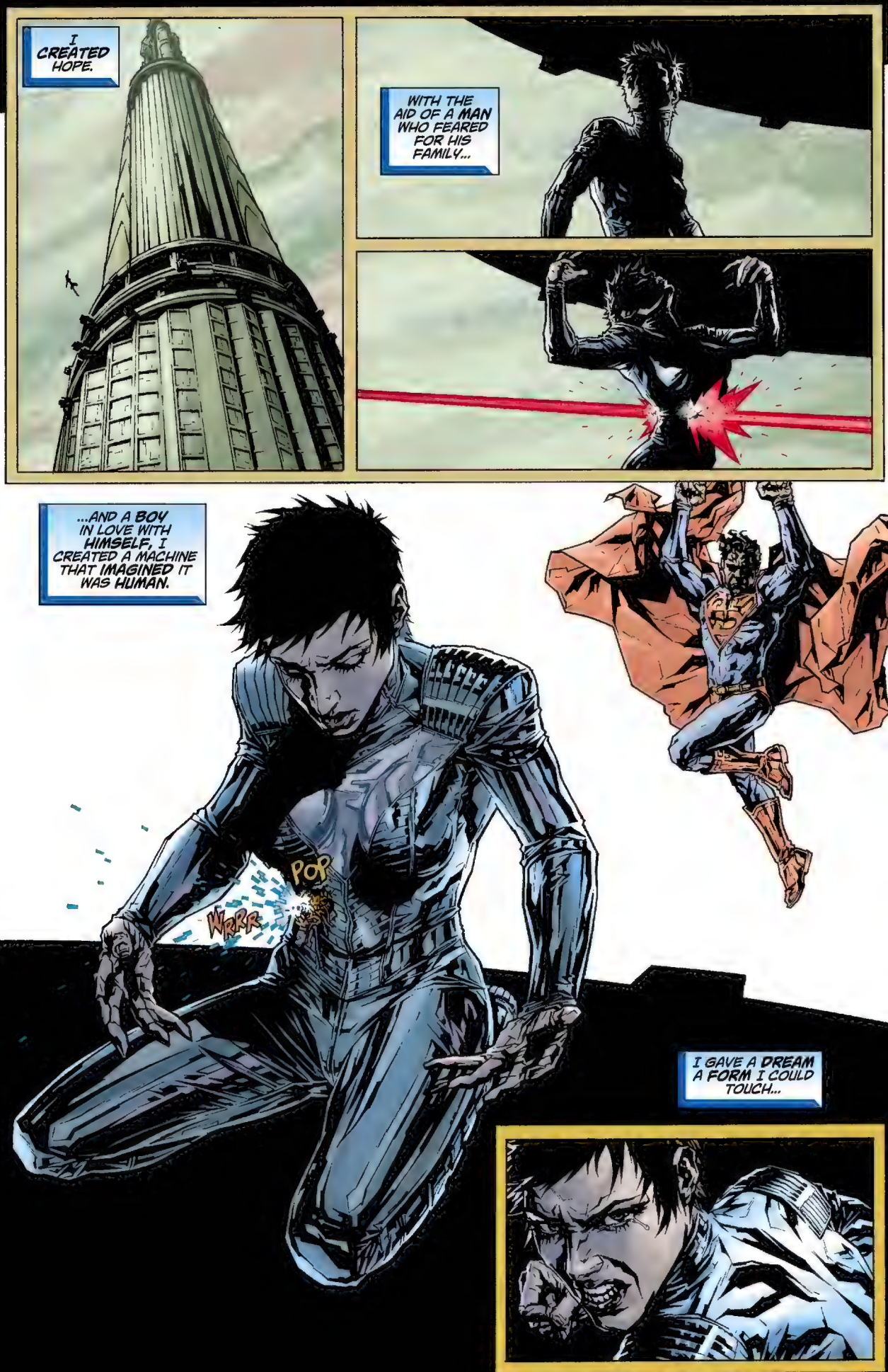

...FEAR.
RIGHT NOW, EVERY CITIZEN IN METROPOLIS IS GLUED TO THEIR TELEVISION, WANTING DESPERATELY FOR SOMEONE OF STRENGTH TO MAKE THAT FEAR GO AWAY.
AND LIKE AN AVENGING ANGEL SHE SWOOPS DOWN...


WINSLOW--ON HIS BEST DAY--WAS NOTHING BUT A PETTY CRIMINAL AND A FAILED HUMAN BEING.
I MADE HIM A MONSTER.
THIS CITY FEARS HIM, AND IT WATCHES, HOPING FOR ONE THING...

CLICK
JUSTICE.

A JUSTICE...
THAT AT THE LAST MOMENT...
...IS SNATCHED FROM THEM.

HOPE...
MY HOPE...
SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND. SHE THINKS...
...IT'S HER BODY THAT BETRAYS HER. IF ONLY...
IF ONLY...
IF ONLY MY TEARS DIDN'T BRAND ME AS HER JUDAS.
BUT LIKE HIS ACTION...
MINE IS PREORDAINED AS WELL...
IF ONLY BY ME.


I CREATED HOPE.
WITH THE AID OF A MAN WHO FEARED FOR HIS FAMILY...
...AND A BOY IN LOVE WITH HIMSELF, I CREATED A MACHINE THAT IMAGINED IT WAS HUMAN.
POP
WRRRR
I GAVE A DREAM A FORM I COULD TOUCH...

...AND I'VE DELIVERED HER TO AN ALTAR FOR AN ALIEN TO SACRIFICE.
AN ALIEN THAT HOLDS LIFE SACRED ABOVE ALL ELSE.
AN ALIEN THAT SEES NO LIFE IN HOPE.

BUT THEN, HOPE IS AN ASPIRATION.
A BEACON THAT SHINES BRIGHTER THAN ANY STAR, LIGHTING THE WAY FOR ALL MANKIND.
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0001000100110110000100O...JWY
0OQ1111KSDHH1KSDHH_JUFJJNWM
93762_0001000100110110000100O
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AUTO-DESTRUCT_
0OQ1111KSDHH_JUFJJNWMNDM09
0OQ1111KSDHH_JUFJJNWMNDM093
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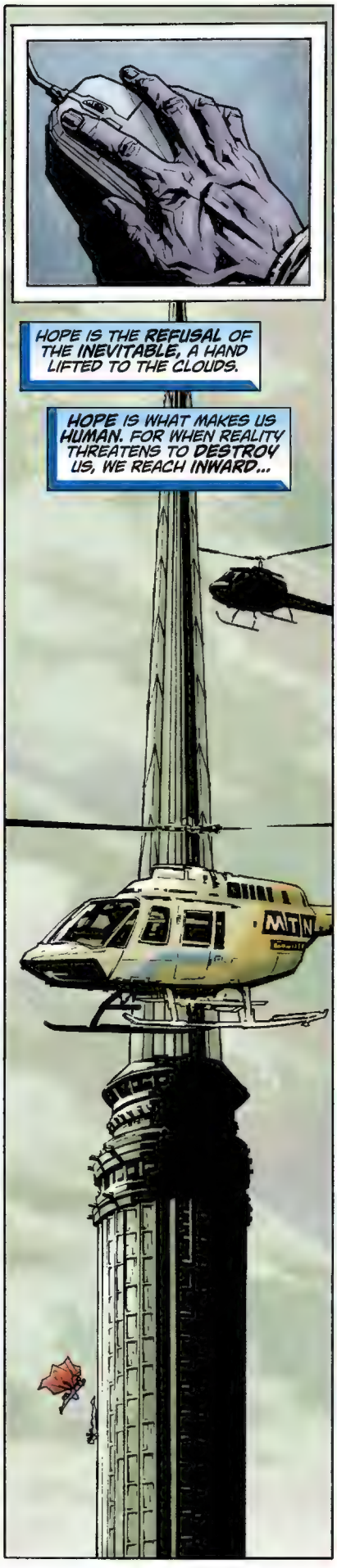

HOPE IS THE REFUSAL OF THE INEVITABLE, A HAND LIFTED TO THE CLOUDS.
HOPE IS WHAT MAKES US HUMAN. FOR WHEN REALITY THREATENS TO DESTROY US, WE REACH INWARD...
MTN

...AND WE CREATE HOPE.
IT'S THE GREATEST GIFT WE CAN GIVE EACH OTHER.
THOUGH, IT JUST MAY BE THE FOUNDATION....
0Q1111DHH_JUFJJNWMNDM09376
0001000100110110000100O...JW
0OQ1111KSDHH1KSDHH_JUFJJNW
93762_0001000100110110000100
Y111_
DETONATE_

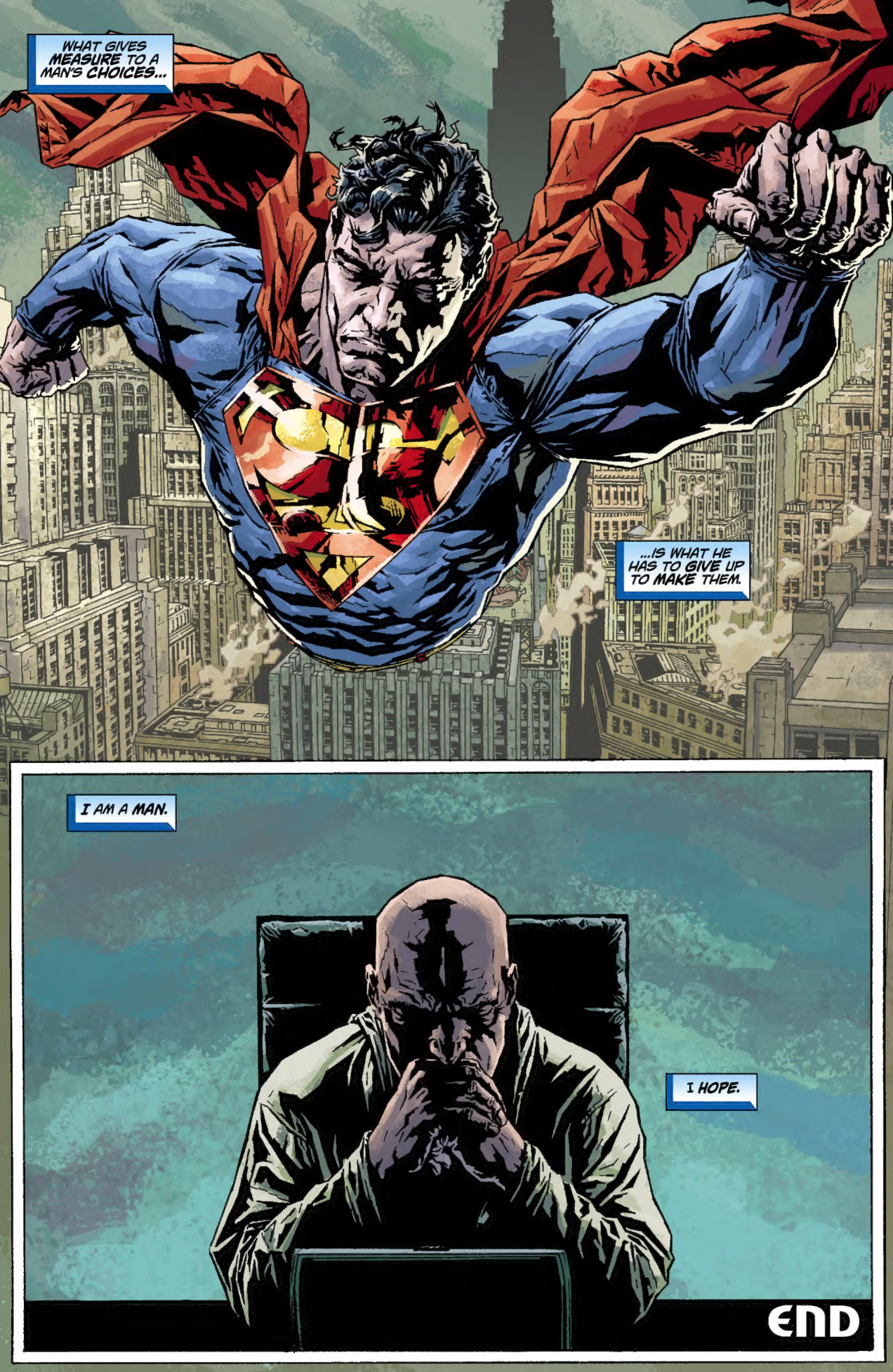
...TO A HOUSE OF CARDS.
DAILY

EVEN THROUGH THE DUST...
I SEE YOUR EYES.
I KNOW OF ALL YOUR REMARKABLE "VISIONS," BUT LET ME TELL YOU WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE...
MY SOUL.
AND THERE'S NOT A SOUL IN METROPOLIS WHO WATCHED HOPE DROP THE MONSTER, AND GIVEN THE SAME OPPORTUNITY?
WOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT THEMSELVES.
NOT A SOUL.
HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL...
YOU ARROGANT ALIEN BASTARD?

YOUR SILENCE SPEAKS VOLUMES...
YOU UNDERSTAND MY WORDS, BUT YOU REFUSE TO BELIEVE WHAT THEY MEAN.
IS THAT BECAUSE YOU SEE SOMETHING IN HUMANITY THAT IN TRUTH ISN'T THERE, OR THAT YOU'RE BLIND TO WHAT TRULY IS?
SAY SOMETHING, GODDAMNIT!
YOU'RE WRONG...
I CAN SEE YOUR SOUL.

WHUMP
WHUMP
NO...
YOU CAN'T. BECAUSE IF YOU COULD...
YOU WOULD SEE A MAN, WHO WILLINGLY DENIED HIMSELF HAPPINESS...
WHO CHOSE TO GIVE UP HOPE...
FOR THE WORLD.
A WORLD WITHOUT A SUPERMAN.

I KNOW I CAN'T BEAT YOU...
...ALONE.
BUT THEN, I'M NOT ALONE. THERE ARE SIX AND A HALF BILLION OF ME...
AND ONLY ONE OF YOU.
AND WE CAN DRIVE YOU BACK OUT TO THE BLACKNESS FROM WHICH YOU CAME.
WHAT THE WORLD WATCHED YOU DO TONIGHT...
IF IT ONLY CHANGES ONE MIND ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE...
PLEASE, JUST FLY AWAY...


WHAT GIVES MEASURE TO A MAN'S CHOICES...
...IS WHAT HE HAS TO GIVE UP TO MAKE THEM.
I AM A MAN.
I HOPE.
END